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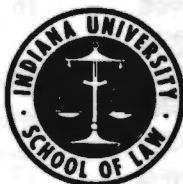


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Newsletter of



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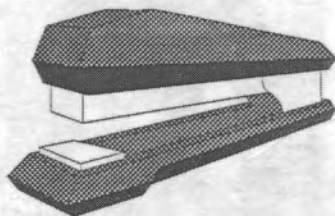
School of Law- Bloomington

Volume 3, Number 8

April 1993

STAPLER CRISIS THREATENS VERY FABRIC OF UNIVERSE!

This January, when Library Director Colleen Pauwels and Acquisitions Librarian Dick Vaughan announced the Library was cancelling all serials subscriptions and its contracts with both LEXIS and WESTLAW to pay for new staplers, few members of the law school community were surprised. And, in early February, when I.U. Trustees decided to close the Schools of Medicine and Music to make interest payments on the staggering stapler debt, nobody batted an eye. President Ehrlich's press release of mid-February that the entire University was in receivership to the Swingline Stapler Company aroused little notice, and world-renowned physicist and Nobel laureate Stephen Hawking's opinion that the sheer mass of broken staplers stored on the I.U. campus must inevitably give birth to a black hole that would swallow not only the Hoosier State but the entire solar system, was greeted with muted apathy. Last week, however, when Indiana Governor Evan Bayh tearfully confessed that the state could no longer pay both I.U. basketball coach Bob Knight's salary and the law school's stapler bill, concerned alumni demanded prompt and immediate action.



Is THIS the Doomsday Machine?

by Harry Hand, with Chicken Little

Answers to the question "How did the Law Library stapler crisis reach such epic proportions?!" are particularly hard to come by. Law school administrative personnel readily admit they are at a complete loss when it comes to explaining how law students could possibly be destroying staplers at the rate of three hundred every second (a conservative estimate, according to Richard Posner in his just-published fifteen volume treatise, *Law, Economics and the I.U. Stapler Crisis*. See, however, Duncan Kennedy's *Why White Upper-class Males Refuse to Use Paper-clips* in the upcoming issue of *Critical Stapler Studies*.) While Professor Don Gjerdingen has suggested to students in his seminar on The Coase Theory of Stapling that the law school's decision to offer more classes requiring papers instead of exams has created "a generation of staple-crazed consumers," some particularly cynical observers blame the stapler crisis on the alarming number of Purdue Engineering School graduates admitted to law school.

What's Inside

Clinton Announces New Tax on All	
Law School Carrels	2
Cruel & Unusual Punishment	3
Library Trades Computers in on	
Karaoke Machines	4
More Misinformation	5
Heidt Appears on Live At The Improv	6
Malignant Rumors	6
Cate's Monkeys Nominated to U.S.	
Supreme Court	7
Vitriolic Abuse	8

Whatever the cause of what Dean Fred Aman has labelled "the global stapler calamity," one thing is certain—the epidemic of bent, broken, mutilated and bullet-ridden staplers has been an absolute boon to the field of legal publication and scholarship! "Do you realize what the smelting of broken staplers is doing to the ozone layer?" exclaimed an ecstatic Rob Fischman. "This is great!" "And what about surgical staples?!" added Professor Roger Dworkin at a recent faculty colloquium. Reference librarians hard at work on a bibliography of the law of staplers could not be reached for comments, although there are unconfirmed reports that they are making a killing on the stapler futures' market.

THE FUTURE ATTORNEY'S PERSONALITY DISORDER EXAM

Several months ago, we brought you the Hidden Brain Damage Test, which was designed to establish the degree to which law school had irreparably injured your cognitive functions. For this month's issue, a crack team of personality disorder specialists have gathered together a series of questions formulated to help you decide which area of law fits your own quirks, eccentricities and sociopathy. To take the exam, answer each of the following questions yes or no, giving yourself one personality disorder point for every yes answer and zero points for every no answer.

1. One or both of my parents has muttered that it was too bad *Roe v. Wade* was decided after I was born.
2. I often find that *REN & STIMPY* poses too great an intellectual challenge for me.
3. My first sexual encounter was with an invertebrate.
4. Some of the most pleasurable hours of my life have been spent in the company of insurance salesmen.
5. I have learned to use heavy perspiration to my advantage.
6. I can swallow a rat whole.
7. I have accidentally deep-fried an entire limb.
8. I've become the life of parties ever since I discovered that I can stuff three dollars' worth of pennies in at least two different body cavities.
9. There is moss growing on the north side of my body.
10. I have been offered large sums of money to go away.
11. I have made a thorough study of human anatomy in case I am forced to remove my own spleen.
12. My parents gave me a box full of dry-cleaning bags for my fourth birthday.

13. I prefer dating people with 35 chromosomes.
14. I alphabetize my socks.
15. There is nothing more relaxing than home taxidermy unless you happen to be my cat.
16. My senior high school class voted me "most likely to become a human speed-bump."
17. Whenever I visit a new bathroom, I always look under the lid of the toilet tank for the Tidy Bowl man.
18. Anagrams are surprise birthday messages sent to Dear Abby's twin sister.
19. I have been kidnapped by aliens on a UFO, used for bizarre non-terrestrial sexual experiments on a regular basis and paid for it.
20. My best friend is the telephone solicitor from Olan Mills.

SCORING:

Give yourself five extra personality disorder points if you actually finished this exam and kept your score.

0 points: You're a perfectly normal, well-adjusted person—what in the world are you doing in law school??!

1-4 points: You might want to consider general practice in a small firm or partnership. You might also want to consider getting some more fresh air and cutting the Spam out of your diet.

5-8 points: A moderate degree of genetic damage makes you the perfect candidate for corporate practice. Helpful hint: do something about that annoying whine.

9-12 points: You're probably a born litigator. By the way—in your case, "scum-sucking mouth-breather" is NOT an insult.

13-16 points: Hello tax lawyers! Please stay away from my neighborhood—the property values dropped far enough when I moved here.

17-20 points: Aren't you glad most personal injury attorneys now can get away with charging a 60% contingency fee when they go to trial? Big bucks almost make severe head trauma worth your while, don't they?

21-25 points: Welcome to the life of a law school professor!



Typical 25 point Personality Disorder Examinee

COMPUTER GLITCH SPARKS MASS PANIC!

by Rhoda Rumormonger

Numerous third year law students preparing for what they had hitherto believed would be their last round of law school exams received some particularly bitter news last week from Recorder Sherrilyn McCoy-Lawrence: a software error in I.U.'s central computer wiped out all academic records for law students whose last names contain two or more vowels. According to experts at University Computing Services, the error was caused by a computer virus known as the Vanna White-out. Although Dean of Students Leonard Fromm initially mollified students with assurances that all lost grades could be reconstructed from grade sheets and old bluebooks, he was forced to retract this statement upon learning that overzealous members of the Environmental Law Society had somehow obtained these indispensable

paper records and recycled them.

Those affected by the tragedy have been offered the option of either graduating with a straight C average or retaking two and a half years' worth of coursework at a nominal fee. While a handful of students decided they might just come out ahead of the game by taking a C average, a majority of the aggrieved would-be attorneys razed University Computing Services headquarters last Saturday night after filing a class action civil rights complaint at the U.S. Southern District Court in Indianapolis. (Few, if any, of the students were even amused by Professor Julia Lamber's suggestion that she'd give them an A in Federal Courts Clinic if they ended up winning their case.)

In a related story, third year student Bob Brownnose, who told IDS reporters "Gee! Most of us would jump at the opportunity to enroll in law school all over again!" was found buried beneath a mountain of old Martindale-Hubbell's behind Nick's.

The Suggestion Box

(Each month, Associate Director Linda Fariss swallows a few tranquilizers, dons her asbestos-lined fire-proof gloves, attempts to answer the scabrous complaints stuffed in the Library's Suggestion Box and winds up using most of the fines collected at the Circulation Desk to take an extended vacation at the behest of library staff psychiatrist, Mel Adjusted. Since all library fines have been used to pay for new staplers (see story on Page 1), this month Dr. Adjusted agreed to respond to your suggestions and questions. While this gambit did save us some money, we regret to announce that Dr. Adjusted has since been committed to Central State Hospital in Indianapolis, refuses to come out from under his bed and is unable to say anything except the words "collateral estoppel." Here are the answers Mel left behind just prior to his incompetency hearing.)

Question: For the thousandth *\$ time, why the @!\$ don't you ?#@!ing *\$#!@#s subscribe to a Detroit newspaper?! There are dozens of Michigan residents at this #%\$@! school, and we want our hometown newspaper!

Answer: What this question demonstrates, aside from a bit of hostility, is the hurt and lonely child-within attempting to "return home." You are still angry and resentful over the initial separation-shock of being forced to leave your mother for school. Please believe me— you are not alone. We care. We love you—you are not alone in the dark, my child. We're with you all the way. (P.S. Have you read my new book, *One Hundred Daily Affirmations for the Child-within*? It's available at all local bookstores, and I strongly recommend it!)

Question: What the *&#! kind of answer was that, you miserable #\$%!@*&?! I just want a Detroit newspaper, not a bunch of *&\$%ing psychobabble!

Answer: The child-within of this letter is obviously rebelling against all the demands made upon it by the heavy course-load of law school. Perhaps now is the time for you to let your child-within out to play! Tennis and golf are typical recreational activities for law students, aren't they? I strongly advise you to take up these sports as well as a copy of the aforementioned book! And if that doesn't help, why don't you let your child-within out to play on the bypass!

Question: Please, please PLEASE do something about the soft but continuous buzzing in the light above my carrel! It's driving me mad, do you hear me?! And tell the library shelvees to start wearing soft-soled shoes! The pounding of their feet makes studying impossible!

Answer: Look, you think you got problems, Jack?! I wake up every night in a cold sweat because I have these nightmares that somebody's grafted Learned Hand's eyebrows all over my face!!!! REAL problems are a publisher that tells you they can't give your book away, and a wife that leaves you for Smokey the Bear, and being attacked by giant invisible marmosets from Venus!!!! OH NO!!!! HERE THEY COME AGAIN!!!! HELP ME!!!! DON'T TELL THEM I'M HIDING UNDER THE BED!!!! YEEEEEEAAGGGGGHHHHHH!!!!!!

WORKING WITH TROWELS

Following up on the success of his boffo essay on Associate Justice Clarence Thomas in Playboy, Professor **Craig Bradley** formally announced that Fox Television has asked him to host the new investigative talk show "Crimprobey After Dark." Bradley delightedly described his first program, which will examine the plight of property attorneys arrested on obscenity charges for revealing too many assignees. Joining Bradley on the late night television circuit will be Professor **Tom Schornhorst**, whose new program, "Galley Slave For A Day" is said to rival World Federation Wrestling for sheer brutality. Says Schornhorst, "The basic format of the show is I take students from Torts and Crim Pro who've told me they're not prepared, chain them up in the dark, rat-infested belly of my barge and make them row back and forth across Lake Monroe while forcing them to recite the facts from Vosberg v. Putney." When asked if he thought the American public was ready for the graphic depiction of law students being flogged by a cat o' nine-tails, Schornhorst gruffly replied, "Hell, if three million viewers are willing to listen to Dershowitz on Oprah, they'll eat this stuff up with a spoon!"

Little did Professor **Aviva Orenstein** realize that talent scouts from Relatively Obscure Records had been secretly invited to this year's Gong Show. Bowled over by Orenstein's dynamic performance, Relatively Obscure producer, Lance Ferdemerde signed Orenstein to a five album contract. Look for Orenstein's first album, Pachelbel's Canon of Ethics and Professional Responsibility sometime this summer!

Earlier last week, a coalition of I.U. Law School professors appeared at a nationally televised press conference, categorically denying rumors that the FBI had contacted them about various techniques to end the month-long stalemate between federal officers and Branch Davidian leader David Koresh in Waco, Texas. While Professor **Bill Popkin** firmly stated he would not broadcast a discussion of the alternative minimum tax rule over a bullhorn, Professor **Sarah Hughes** flatly refused to describe the rules of negotiability from a helicopter, and Professor **Steve Conrad** said "no way!" to the ploy of assigning Koresh a ten page paper covering all major current trends in legal philosophy, Library Director **Colleen Pauwels** ruefully admitted she would be willing to bombard the Branch Davidians' compound with broken staplers.

EPISODES FROM LAW SCHOOL HISTORY (SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION)

1833: As university officials grimly survey the student death toll following the cholera epidemic necessitating the temporary suspension of classes at I.U., one anonymous trustee is heard to mutter, "Rats! Too bad we won't have a law school for another nine years!"

1842: Professor **David McDonald** delivers the inaugural lecture in law at Indiana University, prompting a mass exodus of citizens from Bloomington. Demands one fleeing resident, "Where were all these law students during the cholera epidemic of '33?!"

1898: During a moot court argument on a constitutional question, Professor **Charles Rhett**s tells a student to "can the crap" after the student claims that the right to procreative freedom is covered by "penumbrae inherent in the First, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments." While noted psychiatrist C.J. Jung eventually points out that this incident took place on the very date William O.

Douglas was born, nobody really gets the joke.

1904: Fifteen very sheepish law students admit that they didn't know the Jordan River was only twenty inches deep after their abortive mass suicide attempt following Dean **George Reinhard**'s announcement that the Law School would adopt the Langdell "Case Method."

1987: Three law students are hospitalized for post-traumatic stress syndrome at the end of Professor **Pat Baude**'s lecture on Jung, synchronicity and Griswold v. Connecticut.

1992: Reference Librarian **Keith Buckley** is arrested at two a.m. during an apparent break-in at the Craniotomy Falls, Idaho Chamber of Commerce. During his arraignment, Buckley claims that the only reason he was trying to steal a copy of the city's operating budget for Professor **Ann Gellis** was because he couldn't figure out any other way to obtain such a rare document. Buckley is later found not guilty by reason of insanity upon revealing that Gellis also asked him to compile a list of everybody who'd ever tried to sue a Hittite municipality during the reign of Arnuwandas the Chronically Dyspeptic.